

of joining the military. Finally at the age of 27, he was able to join the Army. A member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Private First Class Fletcher made an historic jump into Iraq on March 23, 2003, the first week of the war.

Sadly he was killed when a roadside bomb exploded the bus on which he was riding on November 14, 2003, in Samarra, Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, designating the Cooper Street Post Office in Private First Class Jacob Fletcher's name honors the tremendous sacrifice of this soldier, and demonstrates how much we value his life. I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 5664, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5664, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Cooper Street in Babylon, New York, as the 'Jacob Samuel Fletcher Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1845

HONORING SERGEANT GERMAINE DEBRO

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. "It's hard to be sad when I'm so proud. You are my hero." These were the words Alvin Debro, Jr., used to bid his brother, Sergeant Germaine Debro, a final goodbye.

Sergeant Debro was killed near Balad, Iraq, on September 4 when his Humvee hit a roadside bomb. A member of the Nebraska National Guard, he had served in both Bosnia and Kuwait. Because of these recent deployments, he was not required to go to Iraq. But as a single man with no children, he volunteered so other soldiers would not have to leave their families.

At the funeral service at Morningstar Baptist Church in North Omaha, Pastor Leroy Adams said to us: I look across this sanctuary, and I see America, one Nation, under God, in a church brought together by Germaine. It's not how long you live, it's how well you live.

His friends recall Germaine's love for life, selflessness and compassion for others. Germaine's mother, Pricilla, said her son died a proud soldier. Our Nation will be forever grateful to Ser-

geant Germaine Debro and his ultimate sacrifice.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE BOB NEY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BOB NEY, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the House as Chair of the Franking Commission. I am grateful to Chairman Ehlers for the opportunity I have had to serve in this position.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the majority and minority staff of the Franking Commission, as we have worked together to ensure the standards of the Commission have been met. In particular, I would like to commend Jack Dail and Rich Landon for unending dedication to the commission. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I am removing myself from the Franking Commission effective today.

Sincerely,

BOB NEY,
Member of Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA EVEN BETTER THAN WAL-MART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, some say it's the best part of Wal-Mart, those happy greeters wearing a smiley face like this one I have here, giving helpful directions, giving coupons away. Others say these greeters even help with shoplifting. I just love Wal-Mart and those greeters. If a product is not at Wal-Mart, you just don't need it. Wal-Mart greeters make a good place even better.

However, the same could not be said of our national greeters. When I look at our southern border, I see policies that have turned our Border Patrol into an army of glorified gun-toting Wal-Mart greeters. They stop some of the thieves from coming into America, but they seem to end up acting like our official greeters, because our government has tied their hands.

Our government seems to be more concerned about the people who enter America illegally than our border agents, those that are already here and charged with protecting our border. Their work is subject to extensive intimidation by the Mexican Government, because Mexico doesn't want their own citizens, so they send them

to the United States. Mexico uses treaties and lawsuits to give their citizens the protection that even Americans don't have.

The Mexican Government even gives illegals, heading north, maps so they can know where they illegally enter the United States and confront our border agents. Mexico is handing out shopping carts and the store directory to the virtual Wal-Mart, America.

But because we don't secure the border, we are opening up our aisles. But our version of Wal-Mart has an even better deal for these invaders, because it's all free. The American taxpayer pays for everything the illegals take from our Nation.

Take for instance, aisle number one, free health care. Mexico won't take care of its citizens, so the United States has become the free HMO of Mexico. It is a known fact that there are signs in Mexico telling expectant mothers what clinics across the border can deliver their anchor babies. Once those babies get sick, aisle one is the place where all their health care needs can be met: doctors, free health insurance, formulas, immunizations with no questions asked, and, of course, no bills. What a deal.

Aisle number two, it's the best education money can buy. Illegals enroll their child, and they can go to school through the 12th grade for free. In Mexico, that government only educates their children through the sixth grade. So the government says, go to America. The Americans will give you a free education in our language, Spanish, and if the student is hungry or needs after-school care, don't worry, aisle number two has free hot lunches, free after-school programs and, after all, our Wal-Mart only has the best.

We can't forget aisle number three. For all your identification needs, we have matricular cards for these illegals. Plenty of States and even the government accepts them for driver's licenses, Social Security and even fake IDs.

Let us go to aisle number four, free Social Security benefits for you and your kids. Aisle number five. It's free welfare to illegals, food stamps, housing, day care.

Mr. Speaker, I did not come up with the idea of calling our border agents Wal-Mart greeters. The truth is, that's what they call themselves. Because they know they are on the side of the American law, but the American law is not really on their side. They end up appearing to greet illegals instead of having the authority to send them back home.

If border agents are really allowed to do their job, our government doesn't seem to back them up. Today, Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean, two Border Patrol agents who shot a Mexican drug dealer, are being punished by a disloyal American government for just doing their job. After all, shooting a drug smuggler is no way for a greeter to act.

A border agent told me in Laredo recently that agents are told by supervisors at our legal ports of entry, quote, We are a port of entry, not a port of denial. So when in doubt, let people in, don't keep them out.

What an absurd policy for security, but a great greeter policy. Our Border Patrol agents should not be Wal-Mart greeters. They are law enforcement officers. They need American policy that is very clear. Keep the drug smugglers, the human smugglers and the terrorists out of America. Protect the sovereignty of our Nation.

After all, it is illegal to come to America without permission. It makes no difference what the Sly Fox of Mexico or his replacement, Commander Calderon, think. It is still our country. Unless we are serious about border security and have firm, well-defined laws on border security, we may as well replace the badge our Border Patrol agents wear with a smiley face of a Wal-Mart greeter.

And that's just the way it is.

REPUBLICANS FENCING OUT ORDINARY AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are so concerned about their own hides that today they voted to fence off the U.S. Constitution from the American people. There is nothing to do with borders between the U.S. and Mexico or between the U.S. and Canada. It has everything to do with the Republican Party fencing out ordinary Americans from participating in their own government.

Why let everyone vote when they might actually vote for the Democrat or for the independent? Democracy is messy for the Republican Party these days, so they are going to short-circuit the process. Who needs to stay up late to watch the vote returns or worry about exit polls, when Republicans have come up with a plan to deny 7 million ordinary Americans the right to vote?

Of course, they have targeted people they don't think will vote Republican: the disadvantaged, the disabled, the elderly, Native Americans, among others. Republicans like to say they are spreading democracy around the world. Here at home, they are using this bill to disenfranchise American people.

Republicans have created a nonexistent crisis because their right-wing base is unhappy and in need of attention. Today the Republicans moved to solve a crisis they created. They want everyone to have an official government-issued photo ID before they could vote.

So much for that Republican line about getting the Federal Government out of our lives. The Republicans want the Federal Government in your face,

snapping pictures. Before you could vote, you would have to produce an official government-issued photo ID. A passport would work. You know, that is the kind of document that the rich have, because they take vacations in other countries. The poor don't take vacations at all. No passport, no vote. No problem for Republicans.

Of course, the Republicans will rush to the podium over here to say that you can use your driver's license. They will not tell you that the National Commission on Federal Election Reform in 2001 estimated that up to 10 percent of Americans eligible to vote do not have official State photo ID, like a driver's license; no photo ID, no vote, no problem for Republicans.

Now, in Georgia and Missouri, they tried this. It was thrown out in court. So today we do it at the national level. We are going to do it for everybody. They will be delighted if ordinary Americans stay home on election day. In fact, they would be relieved.

They know that this bill will encourage it. That is why Republicans are behind it 150 percent. It is the latest step in the Republican strategy to hold on to power in the election of 2006, even if they have to dismantle the democracy to do it. They passed the Help America Vote Act, and then amended it to become the Help Republicans Stay in Power Act by underfunding the legislation.

They said they were helping, but they put no money out there. It is reminiscent of Florida in 2000. Republicans are building a border fence inside our borders to keep the American people out of participating in their own government. This bill will prevent millions of people from casting a ballot, exactly what the Republicans want.

Republicans want to replace the fundamental right in America, the government of the people, by the people and for the people with something else: government of the few, by the privileged and for the rich. This is the creed of the Republican 1 percent Party.

The President of the League of Women Voters, Mary Wilson said, "This is an attempt to politicize the voting process by erecting barriers to keep many eligible legal voters from participating. Congress should not be playing politics with our right to vote," closed quote.

Yet the Republicans are hijacking the right to vote of an ordinary Americans. Why? Because they are afraid of losing power and afraid they can't scare the American people into submission any longer. Letting every eligible American vote means the American people might actually choose the person they want.

That is something Republicans find truly frightening, so they are building a fence to keep the Americans out of America. But the fence won't go up in this bill till 2008, so the American people have a mid-term election ahead. You know what they are up to. You know what they want to do.

But you have a chance to vote, still, everybody has a chance to vote, and the people can vote and protect their right to vote by voting against people who will put up this kind of legislation. We saw in 2000 the efforts to keep people away in indirect ways. This is a direct shot at Americans' right to vote.

□ 1900

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN RECOGNITION OF OPERATION HOMETOWN GRATITUDE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman once said, "America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

I rise today in recognition of Operation Hometown Gratitude. Operation Hometown Gratitude is an effort started by students from Rochester, Minnesota, Public Schools to recognize the hard work and sacrifice of our Armed Forces. The operation was formed to thank our troops by sending care packages and supplies.

I would like to recognize all of the students for their dedication. I am especially thankful to student organizers Katie White, Kelcey Evers, Brian Ehni, Corey Hinsch, Dayton Root, Greg Tri, Mitch Haack, Lucas Kirkam, Jon Nelson, Paul Keehn and Jayna Rench. As someone who has witnessed firsthand the gratitude of our Armed Forces when they receive these care packages and letters of encouragement, I can assure each of these young people that their work is important.

The energy and enthusiasm of these young people was harnessed by a great American. Gary Komaniecki is a teacher at both Rochester John Marshall and Mayo High Schools. Gary is the advisor for these young people and should be recognized for his continued support for our men and women in uniform. Gary has received assistance from Judy Evers, Brenda White, Deanna Mandler, Arthur and Shirley Scammell and Maggie Hovel.

I would also like to recognize the sponsors of this program: VFW Post 1215; all three Rochester HyVee locations; Terry Timm of Ye Olde Butcher Shop; Dave Evans from The Printers; Darel Nigon from Nigon Woodworks; Shawn Flippin from National Pawn Company; Rochester Culvers, both north and south; Jim Rush from A-Z Embroidery; and Homestyle Pizza.